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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/595,043	01/12/2006	Teruhisa Miura	2005-1943A / P38602-01	1745

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WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER
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THOMAS, ERIC W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2831

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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11/29/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/595,043

Applicant(s)

MIURA ET AL.

Examiner

Eric Thomas

Art Unit

2831

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### \Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-12, drawn to a capacitor wherein the terminal plate has an inlet for the electrolyte and a terminal slip insert, formed of insulating resin, the terminal slip including a terminal for outer connection and a rib to be coupled to a first electrode of the electrodes oriented in opposite directions, wherein the first electrode is coupled to the rib of the terminal slip, and a second electrode is coupled to an inner bottom face of the metal housing, so that one of an anode and a cathode is brought out through the terminal of the terminal slip for outer connection and remaining one of the anode and the cathode is brought out through the metal housing.

Group II, claim(s) 13-22, 39-40, drawn to a capacitor wherein the inner face, to which the second electrode of the capacitor element is coupled of the terminal plate is referred to as a reference plane and the reference plane is protruded toward a surface side leaving a plurality of belt-like coupling sections which lie from a rim toward a center of the terminal plate as they are, and the terminal plate has a protrusion to be fitted into the hollow section of the capacitor element and the terminal plate also has a terminal at a center of its surface for outer connection, so that the first electrode of the capacitor element is brought out through the metal housing and the second electrode is brought out through the terminal of the terminal plate.

Group III, claim(s) 23-30, 41-42, drawn to a capacitor wherein the metal housing has an annular section having undergone a drawing process, which results in a V-shaped sectional view so that the processed section can hold down a rim of an end face of a second electrode of the electrodes from outside; a terminal plate, of which inner face is coupled to the second electrode of the electrodes oriented in opposite directions of the capacitor element, for sealing an opening of the metal housing; a first insulating ring formed on an upper end of the processed section of the metal housing such that the ring lies between an outer wall of the terminal plate and an inner wall of the metal housing and continues to inner face in part of the terminal plate; and a sealing ring

made of rubber disposed on the rim of the surface of the terminal plate, and an end of the opening of the metal housing is curled so that the sealing ring can seal the opening.

Group IV, claim(s) 31-38, drawn to a capacitor wherein the first electrode of the capacitor element is brought out through the metal housing, and the second electrode is brought out through the terminal provided to the terminal plate, wherein two of the capacitors are coupled electrically and mechanically together with different polarities from each other into one unit by a coupling plate.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Group I is drawn to a capacitor wherein the first electrode is coupled to the rib of the terminal slip, and a second electrode is coupled to an inner bottom face of the metal housing, so that one of an anode and a cathode is brought out through the terminal of the terminal slip for outer connection and remaining one of the anode and the cathode is brought out through the metal housing and Group II is drawn to a capacitor wherein the terminal plate has a protrusion to be fitted into the hollow section of the capacitor element and the terminal plate also has a terminal at a center of its surface for outer connection, so that the first electrode of the capacitor element is brought out through the metal housing and the second electrode is brought out through the terminal of the terminal plate.

The inventions listed as Groups I and III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Group I is drawn to a capacitor wherein the first electrode is coupled to the rib of the terminal slip, and a second electrode is coupled to an inner bottom face of the metal housing, so that one of an anode and a cathode is brought out through the terminal of the terminal slip for outer connection and remaining one of the anode and the cathode is brought out through the metal housing and Group III is drawn to a capacitor wherein the metal housing has an annular section having undergone a drawing process, which results in a V-shaped sectional view so that the processed section can hold down a rim of an end face of a second electrode of the electrodes from outside; a terminal plate, of which inner face is coupled to the second electrode of the electrodes oriented in opposite directions of the capacitor element, for sealing an opening of the metal housing; a first insulating ring formed on an upper end of the processed section of the metal housing such that the ring lies between an outer wall of the terminal plate and an inner wall of the metal housing and continues to inner face in part of the terminal plate; and a sealing ring made of rubber disposed on the rim of the surface of the terminal plate, and an end of the opening of the metal housing is curled so that the sealing ring can seal the opening.

The inventions listed as Groups I and IV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, Group I is drawn to a

capacitor wherein the first electrode is coupled to the rib of the terminal slip, and a second electrode is coupled to an inner bottom face of the metal housing, so that one of an anode and a cathode is brought out through the terminal of the terminal slip for outer connection and remaining one of the anode and the cathode is brought out through the metal housing and Group IV is drawn to a capacitor wherein the first electrode of the capacitor element is brought out through the metal housing, and the second electrode is brought out through the terminal provided to the terminal plate, wherein two of the capacitors are coupled electrically and mechanically together with different polarities from each other into one unit by a coupling plate.

The inventions listed as Groups II and III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, Group II is drawn to a capacitor wherein the terminal plate has a protrusion to be fitted into the hollow section of the capacitor element and the terminal plate also has a terminal at a center of its surface for outer connection, so that the first electrode of the capacitor element is brought out through the metal housing and the second electrode is brought out through the terminal of the terminal plate and Group III is drawn to a capacitor wherein the metal housing has an annular section having undergone a drawing process, which results in a V-shaped sectional view so that the processed section can hold down a rim of an end face of a second electrode of the electrodes from outside; a terminal plate, of which inner face is coupled to the second electrode of the electrodes oriented in opposite directions of the capacitor element, for sealing an opening of the metal housing; a first insulating ring formed on an upper end of the processed section of the metal housing such that the ring lies between an outer wall of the terminal plate and an inner wall of the metal housing and continues to inner face in part of the terminal plate; and a sealing ring made of rubber disposed on the rim of the surface of the terminal plate, and an end of the opening of the metal housing is curled so that the sealing ring can seal the opening.

The inventions listed as Groups II and IV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, Group II is drawn to a capacitor wherein the terminal plate has a protrusion to be fitted into the hollow section of the capacitor element and the terminal plate also has a terminal at a center of its surface for outer connection, so that the first electrode of the capacitor element is brought out through the metal housing and the second electrode is brought out through the terminal of the terminal plate and Group IV is drawn to a capacitor wherein the first electrode of the capacitor element is brought out through the metal housing, and the second electrode is brought out through the terminal provided to the terminal plate, wherein two of the capacitors are coupled electrically and mechanically together with different polarities from each other into one unit by a coupling plate.

The inventions listed as Groups III and IV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, Group III is drawn to a

capacitor wherein the metal housing has an annular section having undergone a drawing process, which results in a V-shaped sectional view so that the processed section can hold down a rim of an end face of a second electrode of the electrodes from outside; a terminal plate, of which inner face is coupled to the second electrode of the electrodes oriented in opposite directions of the capacitor element, for sealing an opening of the metal housing; a first insulating ring formed on an upper end of the processed section of the metal housing such that the ring lies between an outer wall of the terminal plate and an inner wall of the metal housing and continues to inner face in part of the terminal plate; and a sealing ring made of rubber disposed on the rim of the surface of the terminal plate, and an end of the opening of the metal housing is curled so that the sealing ring can seal the opening, and Group IV is drawn to a capacitor wherein the first electrode of the capacitor element is brought out through the metal housing, and the second electrode is brought out through the terminal provided to the terminal plate, wherein two of the capacitors are coupled electrically and mechanically together with different polarities from each other into one unit by a coupling plate.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103 (a) of the other invention.

2. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Thomas whose telephone number is 571-272-1985. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 5:30 AM - 2:00 PM.

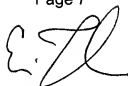
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Thomas', with a stylized, flowing script.

11-26-01

Eric Thomas  
Primary Examiner - 2831